

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00551 121720Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
DHA-02 EA-07 EUR-12 /078 W
-----121954Z 020068 /46

R 121240Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 547
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR NP
SUBJECT: V.P. KOIRALA

1. NEPALESE AMBASSADOR MALLA CALLED ON THE CHARGE
JANUARY 12 TO DISCUSS B. P. KOIRALA'S RETURN TO NEPAL. HE SAID
THAT NEPALI FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL HAD STOPPED IN DELHI FOR SEVEN
TZ#

ORS#ENROUTE TO PAKISTAN AND MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN
BOTH AT THE AIRPORT AND IN DELHI. CHAVAN HAD TOLD ARYAL THAT HAD
KOIRALA NOT RETURNED TO KATHMANDU THE GOI PROBABLY WOULD HAVE
ARRESTED HIM. CHAVAN DID NOT, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE GOI HAD
FORCED KOIRALA TO LEAVE. MALLA SPECULATED THAT IT WAS INCREASING
GOI PRESSURE ON KOIRALA THAT CAUSED HIS DEPARTURE. MALLA CITED,
FOR EXAMPLE, A GOI RAID ON KOIRALA'S RESIDENCE LAST AUGUST
DURING WHICH ANOTHER NEPALI WAS ARRESTED ON THE GROUNDS HE HAD
BEEN INVOLVED IN THE HIJACKING OF THE ROYAL NEPAL AIRCRAFT
TO INDIA.

2. ARYAL HAD INFORMED MALLA THAT KOIRALA, ON HIS RETURN TO
KATHMANDU, HAD CLAIMED THAT HE HAD THE BACKING OF A BIG POWER.
ARYAL HAD ASKED MALLA FOR HIS ADVICE REGARDING WHAT POWER THAT
MIGHT BE. MALLA EXPRESSED HIS VIEW TO THE CHARGE THAT KOIRALA
HAD BEEN BLUFFING BUT IN ORDER TO MEET HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S
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REQUEST QUERIED THE CHARGE ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE US INTEREST IN
KOIRALA. THE CHARGE ANSWERED THAT THE US HAD NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER
IN KOIRALA, THAT THE US HAD LONG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO THE ROLE OF THE MONARCHY AND THE KING IN CONTRIBUTING TO
NEPALESE STABILITY AND WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN ANY ACTIVITY
WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THAT STABILITY. MALLA REPLIED THAT HE
WOULD CONVEY THIS TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. MALLA WENT ON TO SPECULATE ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF
THE INDIANS, THE CHINESE AND THE SOVIETS AND, NOT COMING UP WITH
ANY GOOD RATIONALE FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF ANY, AGAIN CONCLUDED
THAT KOIRALA WAS PROBABLY BLUFFING
SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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